What is claimed is:

1.   An image processing method, comprising steps of:

obtaining input image information including input image data from an input device;

discriminating plural subjects existing in the input image data;

dividing the input image data into plural subject patterns corresponding to the discriminated plural subjects;

obtaining a relationship among the plural subject patterns;

determining a processing method for the input image data of the plural subject patterns on a basis of the relationship, and

processing the input image data of the plural subject patterns in accordance with the processing method so as to obtain output image data.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein as the processing method, a respective processing method is determined for each subject pattern based on respective relevant information regarding each subject pattern.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the respective relevant information regarding each subject pattern includes priority order information set for each subject.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the priority order information is set in accordance with a kind of each subject.

5.   The method of claim 3, wherein the priority order information includes a weighting value set in accordance with a degree of importance of each subject.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the dividing step is conducted by a pattern extracting process to extract the plural subject patterns from the input image data and the respective relevant information includes pattern information regarding each extracted subject pattern.

7.   The method of claim 3, wherein the pattern information includes sub-priority order information set for each subject pattern in accordance with existence situation how each subject pattern exists in an image area of the input image data and the priority order information is corrected by the sub-priority order information.

8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the sub-priority order

information is set in accordance with at least one of an

occupation ratio of each subject pattern to the image area

and a location of each subject pattern on the image area.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the plural subjects

existing in the input image data are discriminated in

accordance with scene attribution of the input image data.

10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the input image

information includes the scene attribution as additional

information.

11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the input device inputs

the scene attribution of the input image data.

12.   The method of claim 3, wherein the priority order

information is set in accordance with the scene attribution

of the input image data.

13.   The method of claim 1, wherein when each subject patter

comprises plural unit patterns, the pattern extracting

process extracts the plural unit patters and detects the
existence situation of each subject pattern from connecting
conditions among the plural unit patterns.

14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the pattern extracting
process is conducted by the input device in such a way that
the location of each of the plural unit patterns is inputted
on a screen on which the input image data is indicated, and
wherein the pattern extracting process obtains connecting
relation information among all of the extracted plural unit
patterns, determines the subject pattern information from the
connecting relation information and extracts the plural
subject patterns from the input image data on a basis of the
subject pattern information.

15.   The method of claim 14, wherein the obtaining step
selects a set of input image data from plural sets of input
image data, the pattern extracting process obtains the
subject pattern information including the connecting relation
information from the selected set of input image data and the
processing step conducts the image processing for the other
sets of input image data by applying the subject pattern
information to the other sets of input image data.

16.   The method of claim 13, wherein the pattern extracting

process extracts the plural subject pattern in relation to

customer information.

17.   An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a first obtaining section for obtaining input image

information including input image data from an input device;

a discriminating section for discriminating plural

subjects existing in the input image data;

a dividing for dividing the input image data into

plural subject patterns corresponding to the discriminated

plural subjects;

a second obtaining section for obtaining a relationship

among the plural subject patterns;

a determining section for determining a processing

method for the input image data of the plural subject

patterns on a basis of the relationship, and

a processing section for processing the input image

data of the plural subject patterns in accordance with the

processing method so as to obtain output image data.

18.   A computer program for conducting an image processing

method, comprising steps of:

obtaining input image information including input image

data from an input device;

discriminating plural subjects existing in the input

image data;

dividing the input image data into plural subject

patterns corresponding to the discriminated plural subjects;

obtaining a relationship among the plural subject

patterns;

determining a processing method for the input image

data of the plural subject patterns on a basis of the

relationship, and

processing the input image data of the plural subject

patterns in accordance with the processing method so as to

obtain output image data.